Student Opportunity Act Plan

Hamilton-Wenham

# Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups

*Student subgroups requiring focused support to ensure all students achieve at high levels in school and are successfully prepared for life.*

* First language not English students
* English learners and former English learners
* Students with disabilities
* Low income/economically disadvantaged students
* High Needs students (defined as any student who is economically disadvantaged, has a disability, or is an English learner/former English learner)
* African American/Black students
* Hispanic or Latinx students

*The rationale for selecting these student subgroups.*

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) is committed to ensuring all of our students achieve success in school and after graduation. However, we recognize that not all student groups have experienced the same level of success to date. Based on a review of our district data, the district has student subgroups who do not experience the same level of MCAS outcomes as their peers.

We are committing to intensive work to close achievement and opportunity gaps for these student subgroups and recognize that this important work will take not just the efforts of district staff but also our families and community.

**Commitment 2: Using Evidence-Based Programs to Close Gaps**

***Focus Area 1:*** Research-based early literacy programs in pre-kindergarten and early elementary grades (E, F, and G)

During the 2019-2020 school year, the district convened a literacy task force. This group identified the need for more consistent teacher training and implementing science-based reading practices in our K-3 classrooms and more robust and consistent Tier 2 intervention practices. Our School Committee also voted on a district goal related to foundational literacy in the fall of 2021. In the FY22 budget, we have included 6.3 new literacy tutor positions, replacing and adding to the positions cut from the budget in FY21. The district's literacy intervention program will also be restructured to provide consistency across all three elementary schools for the 2021-2022 school year. During the summer of 2021, the plan is for teachers and administrators to work collaboratively with consultants to redesign our intervention model to better meet the needs of students.

For the FY21 school year, the lack of local funds and SOA funds did not allow the district to move forward or invest in this priority for the 2020-21 school year.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the $ character** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **N/A** | **0** |  |

***Focus Area 2:*** Supporting educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum (E and F)

After reviewing elementary curriculum documents, it is clear that there is currently a lack of aligned curriculum at the elementary level in our district. To address this concern, For FY22, the district plans to invest in three elementary instructional coaches, one in each building, and an Elementary Director of Learning to lead the work of developing and implementing well- articulated grade-level curriculum and common assessments.

For the FY21 school year, the lack of local funds and SOA funds did not allow the district to move forward or invest in this priority for the 2020-21 school year.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **N/A** | **0** |  |

**Commitment 3: Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets**

*Outcome metrics that will be used to measure progress in closing gaps for selected student groups.*

* Student Growth: ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Student Growth: Mathematics mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Custom District Metric 1: 3rd grade ELA MCAS Proficiency

**Commitment 4: Engaging All Families**

*District plans for ensuring that all families, particularly those representing identified student subgroups most in need of support, have access to meaningful engagement regarding their students’ needs.*

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Districts recognizes that family engagement is critical to ensuring successful outcomes for all students. Given our focus on student subgroups, we must find ways to effectively engage our families of students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, EL students, and students with disabilities.

We recognize that existing family engagement opportunities at our schools may not be effective in reaching all families. Therefore, in addition to our current school-based engagement strategies, the district is exploring a new Family and Community Engagement Liaison position. The responsibilities of this role would include:

* Supporting schools in surveying families, students, and communities to identify issues and concerns
* Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and promote access to educational involvement for all families
* Facilitate connections among families and students and community
* Communicate with families via newsletters and social media
* Explain to parents how standardized tests and other data inform decision-making about increasing student achievement
* Help families support learning at home and school
* Actively partner with community organizations, businesses and citizens to achieve student learning goals
* Promote out-of-school-time learning

The district will determine the appropriate measures to assess this position's effectiveness once funding is identified and a final decision is made to move forward.

Our district is also in the process of further defining a more detailed plan that will ensure intentional outreach to families whose children fall into subgroups that are underperforming and need additional support.

**Certifications**

*Certification that stakeholders were engaged in accordance with the Student Opportunity Act.*

* Elementary Literacy Team (19-20)
* School Committee 20-21 District Goal Development
* District Leadership Team (on-going)
* Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Structure Vetting Team (20-21)

Please note that parent engagement activities since March 2020 have been focused on the pandemic response. The district is planning a community-wide strategic planning process for the 2021-22 school year.

*Certification that School Committee has voted (or is expected to vote on the district’s Student Opportunity Act Plan.*

Date of Approval: 02/22/2021